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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 53% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 76,619 | Nifty 23,320 | Gold 78,898 | Silver 91,412 | Dollar 86.63 | Euro 88.98 | GBP 105.41

By July 31, 2024, the labour department conducted close to 21,000 raids and rescued 365 children, but only 9 of these cases led to convictions

YOUNG FOOT SOLDIERS

Families forced to make kids contribute to household income

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As Bengaluru continues its transformation into a global tech hub, the city's rapid urbanisation has fueled a rising influx of migrant workers to support its growing infrastructure and service demands. However, this development has also led to an alarming rise in child labour. From garages and hotels to households and bag-making workshops, child labour remains prevalent in city.

Recent trends show a shift from intrastate to interstate migrant children being rescued. Many families send their children to work due to financial hardships or family disputes, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

In a recent case, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) rescued 294 children in the Bengaluru division, including 245 boys and 49 girls, under the initiative 'Nanhe Farishte'. Officials noted that most of these children, all under 18, left their homes seeking better

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"If parents are asked to file complaints, they hesitate, fearing it might jeopardise future employment opportunities for their children
— Rajalaxmi Ankalagi, advocate and activist

DO NOT DISTURB

Citizens uneasy with talks about throwing Cubbon Park open to vehicles on weekends and holidays

PAGE 2

PLOT TWIST

BDA takes legal route to recover dues of over Rs 3,500 crore from property owners in Arkavathi, KG Layouts

PAGE 7

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THINGS TO DO

01 Exquisite art showcase

Karnataka Lalitha Kala Academy is set to host an inspiring exhibition and sale of unique artworks titled "A Work of Art for Every Home." The exhibit aims to bring art closer to the people by showcasing around 600 exquisite artworks created by hundreds of talented artists, each representing Karnataka's rich art heritage and culture. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; When: January 18 to 21**

02 Dance tribute

Thyagaraja Aradhane Through Dance: An evening of devotion, music, and dance through mesmerising dance narratives celebrating the life of Saint Thyagaraja, performed by Acharya Raksha Karthik and her disciples. **Where: Prasanna Ganapathy Temple, KHB Colony, Koramangala When: January 19, 5 pm**

03 Dive into past

Archaeology workshop for children by Devika Cariapa. Read clues from ancient remains and write your own 'object stories,' discovering a whole new way of understanding the past! **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar When: January 19, 5 pm**

04 Fashion hunt

Explore TASVA's latest collection in a breathtaking fashion showcase at UB City. Hosted by TASVA,this event is a collaboration between Aditya Birla Fashion Retail Ltd and renowned designer Tarun Tahiliani. **Where: UB City, Bengaluru; When: January 18, 6 pm**

05 Excellence awards

Catch some of the best works of architectural students at the COA National Excellence Awards by Dayananda Sagar College of Architecture (DSCA), with the Council of Architecture – Training and Research Center (COA-TRC, Pune). **Where: DSCA, DSI Campus, Bengaluru; When: January 22**

Will Cubbon Park open its gates to traffic daily?

Park's traffic-free status is not just advantage but a necessity: Cubbon Park conservationists oppose plans for vehicular access on weekends, holidays

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File photo of Cubbon Park during the complete ban of vehicular movement

Recent talks of reintroducing vehicle traffic through Cubbon Park on all seven days of the week have ruffled feathers. Notably, the general public, as well as Cubbon Park enthusiasts, have raised concerns, highlighting that there are discussions about permitting vehicle traffic through the park every day henceforth.

According to sources, during a meeting of the Cubbon Park Conservation Committee, traffic police have proposed allowing vehicular movement through the park on all weekends and public holidays to ease congestion on the main roads surrounding Cubbon Park. The officers reportedly highlighted that events at Kanteerava Stadium and Chinnaswamy Stadium often lead to unauthorised parking in nearby areas. They also suggested implementing a parking system within Cubbon Park and permitting vehicle movement on all days to address these challenges.

Traffic movement

Previously, vehicle movement was allowed only on the second Saturday of each month and remained closed on Sundays. However, as part of a three-month pilot initiative by the traffic police to allow traffic on Saturdays for smoother flow, the change was implemented continuously and extended beyond the trial period.

"A meeting has been called by the government officials on January 22, wherein a discussion will be done on the vehicular movement in the park and further action will be taken," said Kusuma G, Deputy Director of Horticulture.

Reaction to possible implementation

While it has still not been implemented yet, speculations are on that the government officials would approve it, and the Cubbon Park lovers have come together to sign a petition to preserve the park as a public space by maintaining traffic-free Sundays and holidays. A petition on Change.org started by Bangalore Riding states, "We hear that there are plans afoot to bring back traffic from 8 am to 10 am on all days, including weekends and public holidays. An IISC report shows that traffic doesn't improve much with access through Cubbon Park. Secondly, since the government offices and the High Court are anyway closed these days, where is the office traffic that needs this access? Shocking that our beloved sanctuary, our Cubbon Park, is being callously treated as a mere thoroughfare, just a means to an end."

Moreover, the walkers pointed out that if implemented, there will be serious problems for the visitors, biodiversity, flora and fauna, and overall environmental protection of the park. "Cubbon Park's tranquillity and centrality need to be preserved. Its traffic-free status on Sundays and holidays is not just an advantage but a necessity for the well-being of all Bengalureans. We request our elected leaders, government officials, and the public to look at this issue closely and reject any move to bring back traffic on holidays. Our citizens surely deserve better," added the petition.

A member of We Love Cubbon Park stated, "More than 5,000 tourists, children, and senior citizens visit the park on public holidays to experience its natural beauty. Allowing vehicles inside the park would cause significant inconvenience to the thousands of visitors. On public holidays, entry should be restricted to emergency services such as ambulances, fire engines, and other essential vehicles."

US consulate opens in city; no visa services for now

The US consulate in Bengaluru was officially announced on Friday during a "site dedication ceremony" attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and other dignitaries. This marks the establishment of the third US consulate in South India, which will soon begin operations in the city. Eric Garcetti, the US Ambassador to India, addressed the gathering and clarified that visa services will not be immediately available at the Bengaluru consulate.

In his remarks, Jaishankar highlighted the need for visa services in Bengaluru by referencing key statistics. He noted that the Regional Passport Office in Bengaluru issued 8,83,000 passports in the previous year, stressing the importance of facilitating smooth travel. He also mentioned the weekly flights from Bengaluru to San Francisco, expressing optimism that more flights would be added as aircraft manufacturers like Boeing and Airbus ramp up production.

Garcetti, reflecting on his tenure, shared his satisfaction at making the Bengaluru consulate a reality before concluding his diplomatic role in India. He emphasised the historic and growing significance of India in the US's global strategy, noting that India now hosts the second-largest US mission globally.

DKS highlighted Bengaluru's reputation as a safe and thriving hub for global businesses, despite the city's infrastructure challenges. He remarked that the opening of the consulate was a recognition of Karnataka's increasing prominence on the global stage. Jaishankar

acknowledged that a US consulate in Bengaluru had been a long-standing expectation, often raised by individuals from various sectors during his visits to the city over the past five years. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for advocating for the consulate's opening during his visit to the US in June 2023. He further noted that the establishment of this consulate would strengthen collaborations in defence and education, underscoring the growing ties between India and the United States. — BMB

Step towards better fertility care services

SPARSH Hospitals introduced fertility care services at its RR Nagar unit on Friday. Dr Sharan Shivaraj Patil, Chairman and Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon of SPARSH Group of Hospitals and actress Harshika Poonacha were among the guests present at the ceremony. Dr Patil stated that the goal was to provide care in India with a focus on innovation and quality. He added that SPARSH Hospitals aimed to offer a healthcare experience comparable to top hospitals globally. The IVF Centre includes technology such as embryology labs and AI-assisted embryo selection. Joseph Pasangha, Group COO of SPARSH Hospitals, mentioned that the facility would provide treatment options for couples facing fertility issues and stressed the connection between maternal and child health and national development. Poonacha remarked that motherhood is an important aspiration for many and described the Centre as a source of hope for couples.

— BMB

BM STANDS FOR CITY OF LAKES

GOING TO WASTE

Work is on to divert sewage entering Vishwaneedam Lake, but till then waste is being dumped into it

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents around Vishwaneedam Lake on Magadi Road say they are at their wit's end over the sad state of the water body. While the lake has been receiving sewage water from neighbouring residential complexes for many years, the recent incidents of dumping have gotten them concerned.

"A lot of waste is also being dumped inside the lake. We can see big earthmovers operating in the lake area. However, there is no clarity on the work being taken up by the authorities," said a resident of the area.

According to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the ongoing work has been taken up by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

"A lot of sewage has been entering the water body. We have written to BWSSB to stop the entry of untreated sewage. The water board is also carrying out some work to divert sewage coming in from nearby residential areas," said an official from BBMP's Lake Department.

"BWSSB has not taken permission from Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) to carry out the work," a BBMP official informed.

However, BWSSB officials say the work is being conducted on the Board's land for which no permission is required.

"We are constructing a .5 MLD intermediate sewage pumping station (ISPS) to lift sewage from nearby houses. While an underground drainage system was constructed sometime back, ISPS work was pending leading to untreated water entering the lake.

We have taken one acre of land from the Revenue Department, however, ISPS construction is happening on a much smaller portion of land adjacent to the sewage entry location.

For this, we do not need permission from KTCDA. Moreover, the work was taken up after multiple meetings with BBMP's Lake Department and KTCDA. Officials from both agencies are aware of this project," said a BWSSB official.

According to the Board, the ISPS construction will take another year to be completed.

"Once the pumping station is up and about, sewage entry in the lake will stop completely," informed the official.

Child found dead in Sarjapur pond

A child went missing on Thursday afternoon and was found dead on Friday in a pond near GEM Park, Sarjapur. The child, who was autistic and had difficulty responding, was last seen around 2.44 pm near a water tank, as revealed by CCTV footage.

The child was reportedly wearing a light blue shirt and black shorts when he went missing near Pushpam Lush County Recreational Area in Gudigattanahalli. By Friday afternoon, his bicycle and slippers were discovered near the pond, raising fears of a tragic outcome. Police stated that the distance between the child's house and the pond is approximately 2-3 km. CCTV footage showed the boy riding his bicycle alone for about 200 metre before disappearing from view.

"We are awaiting the postmortem report to determine the cause of death. The investigation will continue to understand the circumstances surrounding this tragic event," a police official said. **BMB**

Auto driver dies by suicide over marriage rejection

A 29-year-old man ended his life in Narayanappanapally, Nelamangala, reportedly due to repeated rejections in his search for a life partner. The deceased, identified as Venkatesh, was an auto driver who lived in a rented house. According to sources, Venkatesh had approached nearly 15 families seeking marriage alliances, but all declined, citing his weight as a concern. Distressed by these rejections, Venkatesh was reportedly overwhelmed with stress and took the extreme step. The incident came to light when his aunt visited his residence after he failed to answer phone calls.

Madanayakanahalli police officers have registered a case of unnatural death. **BMB**

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Bengaluru metro plans to add 143 km, 95 stations in five years

BMRCL aims to expand its network with Blue and Pink Lines set for launch by late 2026; Yellow Line, connecting Electronic City, is expected to begin operations by March or April this year

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The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) aims to extend the metro network to 220 kilometres over the next five years by opening six new routes spanning a total of 143 kilometres for commercial operations.

Current status and upcoming routes

At present, Bengaluru's metro network comprises 77 kilometres, including the Whitefield-Challaghatta Purple Line (43.49 km) and the Nagasandra-Silk Institute Green Line (33.5 km). The Karnataka cabinet recently approved Phase 3 of the metro, which includes the Hebbal-Sarjapur Red Line (36.585 km). The state government has committed to operationalising all proposed routes except for the Red Line. By late 2026, BMRCL plans to launch operations on the Blue and Pink Lines, which are currently under construction. The Yellow Line, connecting Electronic City, is expected to be operational by March or April this year.

Progress Update

An official said, "Construction for the Phase 2 Blue Line (58.19 km) and the Pink Line (21.26 km) is in progress, with the government aiming to complete both by the end of 2026. Civil work on the Blue Line's Phase 2A and 2B sections, connecting Central Silk Board to Krishnarajapuram and KIA, has reached 45% completion. Additionally, 10% of track installation between Outer Ring Road and the airport is complete. For the Pink Line, 13 kilometres of tunnelling work from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara is finished, with 22.16% of civil work on the Tavarekere-Nagawara stretch and 79% of track installation for the elevated section from Kalena Agrahara completed."

"Civil work on Blue Line's Phase 2A and 2B sections, connecting Central Silk Board to Krishnarajapuram and KIA, has reached 45% completion"

Phase 3 developments

The Rs 15,611 crore Phase 3 Orange Line will include two corridors: JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura and Hosahalli to Kadabagere. Land acquisition surveys are ongoing, with 777 private properties identified for acquisition across 129,743 square metres of land. Geotechnical investigations have also begun on Magadi Road. As part of its five-year roadmap, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) plans to launch six new metro routes to enhance connectivity and ease traffic congestion across the city. The RV Road-Bommasandra Yellow Line spans 19.15 kilometres with 16 stations, providing crucial access to the bustling Bommasandra industrial area. The Kalena Agrahara-Nagawara Pink Line covers 21.26 kilometres with 18 stations, connecting south Bengaluru to its northern suburbs.

> **"For Pink Line, 13 km of tunnelling work from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara is finished with 22.16% of civil work completed**
> – Official

The Central Silk Board-KR Puram Blue Line-1, stretching 19.75 kilometres with 13 stations, aims to decongest the IT corridor along Outer Ring Road. The KR Puram-Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Blue Line-2 extends over 38.44 kilometres with 16 stations, offering a seamless connection to the airport. Additionally, the JP Nagar 4th Phase-Kempapura Orange Line spans 32.15 kilometres with 23 stations, linking the city's southern regions to its northern business districts. Lastly, the Hosahalli-Kadabagere Orange Line covers 12.50 kilometres with 9 stations, providing much-needed connectivity to Bengaluru's western suburbs. In total, these six routes will add 143.25 kilometres of metro lines and 95 new stations, significantly enhancing Bengaluru's metro network and its capacity to serve the city's growing population.

Ridership projections

BMRCL estimates daily ridership as follows:

Yellow Line: 2.5 lakh passengers
Pink Line: 5 lakh passengers
Blue Line: 7.7 lakh passengers
Orange Line: 7.28 lakh passengers

Unlit roads, growing dangers: Kanakapura calls for urgent fixes

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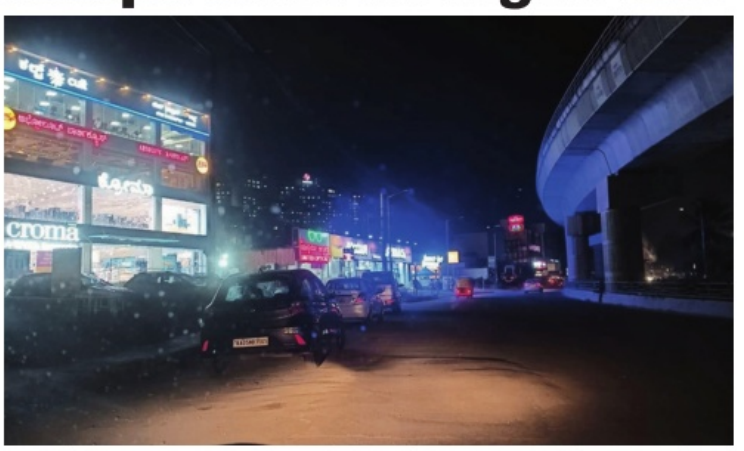
Residents of Sri Shankara Layout and surrounding areas have been facing a lot of problems due to streetlight outages on Kanakapura Main Road. They complain that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities have not fixed the problem despite receiving complaints.

The residents have also appealed to the BBMP authorities to visit Kanakapura Road at night to know whether the street lights are turned on or not. They complain that most of the street lights between Silk Institute and Talghattapura are defunct. "I wrote letters to the BBMP authorities requesting them to repair defunct street lights but nothing has been done to date. It has become tough for pedestrians to walk or to cross the road from one side to the other side due to the lack of street lights, I witnessed two road accidents recently. There is no hump near Vajramuneshwara Gate. It will avoid motorists driving vehicles at high speed if the authorities construct a hump at this spot," said Arunkumar, a resident of Sri Shankara Layout.

Expressing concern over the streetlight outages on Kanakapura Road, Nagendra Swamy, a resident, said the pedestrians face a lot of problems due to lack of street lights. "I urge the BBMP Electrical Department engineers to visit the road at night to know how difficult it is to cross the road. Bus passengers, especially those who want to travel towards Kanakapura and Kollegal, are facing problems identifying the buses in the absence of street lights," Nagendra Swamy said.

Demanding the authorities to repair the defunct street lights as early as possible, VK Srivatsa, Secretary of Change Makers of Kanakapura Road said, Gavisiddaiah, nodal officer of Hemmigepura Ward, is an Engineer of BBMP Streetlights Department. "Around 60 streetlights are not functioning on Kanakapura Road between Adigas Hotel and NICE Road. Around 10 street lights are not functioning near Turahalli Forest. Recently, a leopard was spotted near Turahalli Forest. The need of the hour is to repair the defunct street lights near Turahalli Forest," said Srivatsa.

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Engineer Sangamesh said the defunct street lights on Kanakapura Road are being repaired in a phased manner. "The street lights near Turahalli Forest are not functioning due to damage to the electric cable. Now, the damaged cable is replaced," he said.



Lack of lights makes crossing roads at night a struggle for pedestrians

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Hygiene issues

Yeshwanthpur

Yeshwanthpur Bus Station struggles with dusty platforms, unclean restrooms, and smoking near toilets, making it uncomfortable for commuters.

Footpath woes

Marathahalli

Footpaths along Marathahalli's main road, especially near landmarks, are poorly maintained, causing safety and accessibility challenges for pedestrians.

Duct danger

Residency Road

Improperly closed ducts outside Devatha Plaza, Ward 111, Residency Road, pose deadly hazards to pedestrians.

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Housing society in Horamavu taps into solar power

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The Trinity Enclave Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) in Horamavu has launched a green initiative to encourage residents to adopt rooftop solar energy systems. This initiative is part of the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, aimed at making solar energy accessible and affordable for households. So far, 25 homes in the layout have signed up for the programme, which is expected to help residents significantly reduce their electricity bills.

"Our goal is to promote clean energy and reduce our carbon footprint. Solar energy is environmentally friendly and reduces dependency on conventional power. The scheme offers a subsidy of Rs.78,000 from the government for a 3 kW system, and bank loans are available at just 7% interest with a 5% down payment. Residents can save on their BESCOM electricity bills and even earn additional income by selling surplus power back to BESCOM," said Kochu Sankar, President of the RWA.

The process, Sankar explained, is straightforward. "Residents need to apply for the subsidy through the national portal, submit their documents to the bank for loans, and coordinate with BESCOM. Installation can be completed in just 10 days. The required documents include only an Aadhaar card and an electricity bill. It's a simple, hassle-free process," he added.

The RWA has played a crucial role in simplifying this process for residents. "When a single house applies,

the process may seem daunting. But by pooling applications from five or more houses, we were able to negotiate better pricing with vendors and streamline the procedure. Our layout has about 200 buildings, and we've already helped 25 houses get their subsidies approved," Sankar said.

The cost of installing a rooftop solar system ranges from Rs.1.8 to Rs.2 lakh. While many residents choose to take loans, the benefits outweigh the costs. "The loans offered under this scheme have no processing fees or foreclosure charges. With a five-year payback period, households can enjoy over 20 years of free electricity," Sankar explained.

During the daytime, solar panels generate electricity for household use, and any surplus is exported to BESCOM. At night, when solar power isn't produced, homes draw power from the grid. At the end of the month, BESCOM calculates the net energy usage. If more power is exported than consumed, BESCOM pays the homeowner; otherwise, the homeowner pays for the net usage.

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personal

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I, Krishnam Raju R/o No. 1 G/f 5th Cross A Sector Amruth Nagar Sahakaranagar B'luru-560092 have changed my name to Krishnamraju Yelamma Raju for all purposes

I Ekta Pradeep Chowhan R/o # T1402, SNN Raj lakeview Phase 2, N S Palya Main road, 29th Main, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560076, I have Changed My Name to Ekta Chowhan.

I, Keshava.N R/O No 129, 5th Main, 7th Cross, Motinagar, Rt Nagar, Blr-32. I changed my name from Keshva.N to Keshava.N for all future purposes.

I, Ankita Choudhary W/O, Rudolf Abraham R/o Flat No D301 Kingston Grandeur , T C Pallya have changed my name to Ankita Abraham for all purposes.

I, Mohamed Muqeem sami S/o Samiuddin # 9/1 k b sandra blr-32 have changed my name to Mohammed Muqeem for all purposes.

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I, Subramani K R/a No 358 Old Town,3rd block, Bethamagala, kolar, Karnataka 563116. I have lost my orginal sale deed document BK No 3650 2008-2009 in the place of Bethamagala . I have raised Complaint Lost Report No 1432520/2025 if anybody found please submit nearby police station or contact 8147716973

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Layouts ready, but unpaid dues take toll on BDA

BDA takes up legal route to recover dues of ₹3,503.64 crore from property owners in Arkavathi, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layouts

File photo of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is owed a staggering Rs 3,503.64 crores in development charges from property owners of residential and commercial buildings in the Arkavathi and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda layouts. Despite having constructed their properties before layout development was completed, these owners have yet to pay the stipulated charges.

Sources said that BDA has spent a significant amount developing infrastructure across its layouts, and many residents are already benefiting from these facilities. Yet, the pending charges, predominantly from Arkavathi Layout (Rs 3,307.91 crores) and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (Rs 195.72 crores), remain a significant financial burden.

An official said, "BDA had acquired 2,750 acres of land for Arkavathi Layout in 2003 and developed Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout over 4,043 acres. Currently, it is also working on Shivaram Karanth Layout over 3,546 acres. In these layouts, BDA has mandated development charges from property owners to fund the provision of essential infrastructure such as roads, streetlights, and drainage systems. However, many property owners have either delayed or avoided paying these charges. As a result, BDA is struggling to gather the funds required to provide necessary infrastructure across these layouts. The authority is now seeking to recover the outstanding charges through legal provisions under Section 20 of the BDA Act."

Development charges & defaulters

Sources said that the development charges are calculated based on prevailing guideline values. For instance, in Arkavathi Layout, owners are required to pay Rs 336 per square foot, while in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, the rate is Rs 276 per square foot. For landowners in areas where de-notified plots were included, charges have been fixed at Rs 1.5 crore per acre in Arkavathi and Rs 32 lakh per acre in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.

Officials note huge portion of pending charges stems from unauthorised constructions

An official said, "A significant portion of the pending charges stems from unauthorised constructions. Some private developers constructed layouts illegally without obtaining necessary conversions or approvals, while others built homes years ago but have not paid development fees. The BDA has now issued notices to thousands of such property owners, offering them an opportunity to regularise their assets by paying the required charges."

Legal & policy challenges

The process of land acquisition and layout development has faced delays due to legal disputes and procedural challenges. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar stated in legislative sessions that no immediate action will be taken against officials until ongoing policy revisions and legal issues are resolved. For properties in Shivaram Karanth Layout, development charges have also been set based on guideline values. A total of 5,171 buildings regularised by the Justice Chandrashekhar Committee in 17 villages will need to pay charges to obtain property records, said an official.

Builders are yet to pay ₹666.97 cr in penalties

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority's (RERA) failure to recover the penalty imposed on defaulting builders has become a cause of concern among the home buyers in the state. Latest reports show that an alarming amount of arrears owed by builders to homebuyers remains uncollected. Despite mandates, it is alleged that majority builders show little regard for compliance, openly flouting orders without facing significant repercussions, putting the homebuyers in a difficult position.

According to the data prepared by the Tahsildar of Karnataka RERA, the total cases ordered for recovery stand at 1,660, with Rs 758,85,87,682 to be collected in penalties. Of which, only Rs 91,88,47,495 has been recovered from 233 cases so far, with Rs 666,97,40,187 yet to be recovered from 1,427 pending cases.

Sudhakar Lakshmanraja, a resident of Bannerghatta, said that thousands of homebuyers in Karnataka, including himself, have been suffering due to errant builders who are owing crores in dues and continuing to mock the system by defying RERA orders. "Despite Rs 40 lakh pending in my case and countless others, these builders are still allowed to operate. It's time for RERA to blacklist such defaulters and for the government to take decisive action to protect homebuyers and uphold the law," he said.

It was noted that the core issue lies in the lack of stringent enforcement mechanisms. Notably, the revenue department is authorised to collect the penalty from the errant builders. Despite having the authority to impose fines, blacklist defaulters, and even initiate criminal proceedings, it is alleged that Karnataka RERA has taken minimal action against errant builders due to the failure of the revenue department in enforcing the RERA's orders.

The non-payment of dues by builders is thereby creating financial and emotional distress for these homebuyers. It is said that many are left without their dream homes or compensation, even after favourable RERA rulings. "The state government must revisit the functioning of RERA authority and take corrective action immediately to strengthen RERA in Karnataka," said Dhananjay Padmanabhachar, Sanchalak, Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum.

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Partial cancellation of Metro services on Sunday

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced a partial disruption in services on the Purple Line for track maintenance on Sunday, between Cubbon Park and MG Road Metro stations.

From 7 am to 10 am, metro services will be curtailed between Kempegowda Majestic and Indiranagar metro stations for three hours. However, metro services between Challaghatta & Kempegowda Majestic and Whitefield (Kadugodi) & Indiranagar stations will operate as scheduled during the same period.

Services on the Green Line will continue as usual, with trains running on time from all terminal stations starting at 7 am. **BMB**

HC reserves verdict on Yediyurappa's plea to quash POCSO case

The Karnataka High Court on Friday reserved its verdict on former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa's petition seeking to quash a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) case against him.

The BJP leader dismissed allegations that he had intentionally delayed his plea until after the complainant's death, arguing that he could not have predicted when she would pass away.

The case was filed based on allegations by a woman who claimed that Yediyurappa had sexually assaulted her 17-year-old daughter during a meeting at his residence in Bengaluru in February 2024.

An FIR was registered by Sadashivanagar police on March 14, 2024, before being transferred to the CID, which later filed a chargesheet.

Senior advocate C V Nagesh, representing Yediyurappa, countered the prosecution's argument that the former CM had deliberately waited until the complainant's death to file his petition.

He stated, "She did not inform me when she would breathe her last. I am not a magician."

This was in response to Special Public Prosecutor Ravivarma Kumar's claim that the timing of the petition raised suspicions.

During the hearing, Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that an FIR is essentially the complainant's statement and assured that relevant legal precedents cited by both parties would be considered.

A key issue discussed was the applicability of Sections 29 and 30 of the POCSO Act, which presume the accused guilty unless proven otherwise. The prosecution argued that these provisions placed the burden of proof on Yediyurappa. However, Nagesh contended that such presumptions apply only during trial and not at the stage of quashing an FIR or chargesheet.

Nagesh pointed out that the complainant and her daughter visited Yediyurappa

again on February 5, 2024, just days after the alleged incident. He suggested that their primary intention was to seek his help in another legal case rather than pursue allegations against him.

The court observed that the victims had recorded their interaction with Yediyurappa, calling the contents of the recording "disturbing", and stated that all evidence needed thorough examination.

Nagesh argued that the prosecution could not rely solely on the victim's statement while ignoring other witness testimonies. He urged the court to examine the case diary for a complete picture. He also dismissed the relevance of Sections 214 and 204 of the IPC, which relate to concealing or destroying evidence.

Additionally, he questioned the trial court's handling of the case, arguing that it had not properly assessed the matter before taking cognizance. If the high court were to remand the case, he suggested that statements from all witnesses be considered.

He also pointed out that, under Section 41A of the CrPC, authorities should have issued a notice before proceeding, as the charges carry a maximum sentence of five years.

After hearing all parties, the court reserved its verdict and extended the interim order until a final ruling is issued. **PTI**

Abduction case: HC pauses framing charges against HD Revanna

The High Court issued a temporary order on Friday, preventing the trial court from proceeding with charge framing against Janata Dal (Secular) leader HD Revanna in an abduction case.

Justice M Nagaprasanna clarified that whilst the special court in Bengaluru may proceed with hearing arguments against Revanna, it must refrain from framing charges until January 30, when the High Court will consider Revanna's quashing petition.

The High Court stated, "The learned Senior Counsel for the petitioner (Revanna) submits that the matter is at the stage of hearing before charge and hearing is on. The concerned court is permitted to hear the matter at the stage of arguments before charge but shall not frame the charge till January 30, 2025."

This interim directive was issued as the Court adjourned the hearing regarding Revanna's quashing petition. The proceedings against HD Revanna involve the alleged abduction of his former domestic help, which is connected to sexual abuse accusations against his son, suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna. HD Revanna currently faces two criminal cases: one concerning sexual assault allegations and another regarding kidnapping accusations. He got bail in both matters on May 13.

Young and unfree: Child labour on the rise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wages or fleeing difficult family circumstances.

Alarming statistics

Data from the Karnataka Labour Department reveals a steady rise in child labour cases post-pandemic. The department rescued 172 child labourers in 2020, 315 in 2021, and 395 in the first nine months of 2022.

Significant efforts have also been made to combat child labour, with the state conducting 39,001 inspections in 2023, leading to the rescue of 707 children and the detection of 414 violations. By July 31, 2024, the labour department conducted close to 21,000 raids/inspections and rescued 365 children.

However, the number of convictions has been declining over the years. Despite initiating 140 prosecutions in 2024 only nine convictions were achieved, marking a sharp decline compared to 31 convictions in 2021. Fines collected have increased over time, rising from ₹5.07 lakh in 2021 to ₹9.31 lakh in 2024. While inspections and fines have increased, the conviction rate has dropped significantly.

Root causes

Child labour stems from various socio-economic challenges. Economic pressure is a significant factor, with financially struggling families often pushing their children into work to contribute to household income.

An official stated, "Families, and sometimes even the children themselves, are often forced into these circumstances due to severe financial struggles. The pressure to meet basic needs drives them into labour, despite the associated risks and challenges."

Migration is also one of the causes, as the demand for cheap labour in urban areas attracts families from other states, leading to an influx of children into vulnerable working conditions.

Additionally, family issues such as disputes or aspirations for better living standards frequently compel minors to leave home, making them more susceptible to exploitation in unsafe environments.

A vicious circle

However, experts argue that it is a vicious circle and that the real numbers may be much more than what is on record. The conviction rate in child labour cases heavily depends on the registration of complaints, which is often fraught with complexities. When underage children are found working, the question arises, who should be held accountable? Many of these children come to Bengaluru seeking better living conditions, often accompanied by family members but not their parents.

In such situations, families, driven by financial struggles, send their children to work out of sheer helplessness. "It's the society and employers who should be blamed," said city-based advocate and activist Rajalaxmi Ankalagi.

"When such cases are discovered, complaints are often registered by the police, but further action is delayed or never taken. If parents are asked to file complaints, they hesitate, fearing it might jeopardise future employment opportunities for their children."

Education is another hurdle, particularly for children migrating from states like Bihar. Due to language barriers and the need to earn a living, they often cannot access government schools. Instead, they are pushed into the workforce, where employers exploit them for cheap labour. "It's a vicious circle," Ankalagi added. "The numbers we see in official records are just the tip of the iceberg. Many cases go unreported."

Behind the wheel and in control

Initiative that put single mothers back on track takes off; 6 more e-autos handed over

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Initiative by Namma Yatri has picked up pace as its second phase was set into motion

A growing number of single mothers in Bengaluru are breaking barriers by turning into auto drivers, thanks to the transformative training programmes offered by Namma Yatri under its Mahila Shakti initiative. The programme, in collaboration with the Bengaluru City Police and Parihar, is empowering women, particularly those with challenging pasts, to become financially independent and serve as the sole breadwinners for their families.

In a remarkable event held on Friday at the Command Centre, six free e-autos were handed over to the eligible by Commissioner of Police B Dayananda. This marks the second phase of the initiative, which aims to uplift single mothers and specially-abled women by providing them with the tools and resources needed to build sustainable livelihoods.

"I am pleased and grateful to see companies and organisations coming forward to transform the lives of women who have faced significant challenges. This effort not only empowers them but also offers hope to many still waiting for similar support," said Dayananda.

The initiative goes beyond just offering e-autos. Beneficiaries are provided with comprehensive training by Namma Yatri, which includes hands-on learning with rented autos, smartphones, and three years of free insurance. Nagalakshmi from the Namma Yatri Mahila Shakti team highlighted the programme's impact saying, "Namma Yatri began training women in 2023. So far, we have trained 150 women who are now driving with Namma Yatri, and over 80 more are currently undergoing training. This partnership with Parihar and the City Police has enabled us to help these women achieve greater financial independence."

Stories of resilience

For many of these women, the journey toward financial independence started after overcoming deeply troubling circumstances. Shabina, a 30-year-old single mother, shared her story of resilience. After her husband abandoned her and their two children four years ago, she struggled to make ends meet. In 2023, she discovered the training program, which became a turning point in her life.

"Now, I can earn a living, support my children's education, and I am no longer dependent on anyone," Shabina said.

Similarly, Ruth A, a 37-year-old polio survivor, who lost her parents at a young age, was inspired by a well-wisher who cared for her and started making homemade chocolates to support herself. The NGO-led training programme introduced her to the e-auto initiative, which changed her life. "I am very grateful to Parihar and the other NGOs for considering me for this initiative. Now, I can support my well-wisher more effectively and also achieve financial independence," she said.

Collective effort

The e-auto initiative is closely monitored by four NGOs, alongside Parihar, to ensure the beneficiaries receive continuous support and guidance. United Way Bengaluru is the implementing partner and GE Aerospace, the donor of e-autos.

Sanjeev, executive service and materials engineer at GE Aerospace, said they plan to collaborate with various NGOs and organisations to address community needs, including development, environment, and education.

A growing movement

Last year, five e-autos were distributed to eligible women, many of whom had faced significant hardships but now have a renewed purpose in life. As more organisations and individuals step forward to contribute, the initiative aims to expand its reach, empowering countless women across Bengaluru to drive toward financial stability and independence.

Defamation case: HC breather to Rahul

The Karnataka High Court on Friday stayed the proceedings against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in connection with the defamation case filed by the state unit of the BJP.

A bench, headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna, passed the order while looking into the quash petition filed by the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

The matter has been adjourned till February 20. Rahul Gandhi was given bail in the case by the Magistrate Court in June 2024.

The BJP has also made Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar parties in the case.

Gandhi, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar had appeared before the court regarding the matter.

The defamation suit filed by BJP General Secretary Keshav Prasad alleges that the Congress engaged in propaganda by publishing full-page advertisements accusing the then BJP government of charging a 40 per cent commission, labelling it as a "40 per cent government."

The Congress also created posters and advertisements displaying a rate card allegedly set by the then BJP government for various posts.

The petitioner claimed that the charges were baseless, defamatory and prejudiced.

The advertisement spoke about alleged scams in PSI recruitment, Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

–IANS

Water points for elephants away from villages may cut conflict

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Artificial water points may not be way to go, say experts

A new study has highlighted that creating separate water points for elephants, away from villages, can help reduce human-elephant conflict cases.

Researchers, through the study, have shown that upgrading water points and ensuring reliable water sources have helped reduce conflict cases in Etosha National Park in Namibia.

However, wildlife conservationists and activists say artificial water points as a human-elephant conflict management strategy may not be the way to go in our domestic scenario.

The focus should be on the restoration of elephant corridors and eliminating monoculture plantations from forest areas to improve water availability inside forests.

"Elephants venture out of forest areas due to fragmented and encroached traditional paths. Moreover, owing to various reasons, farmers in areas abutting forests have resorted to crops that attract elephants. The focus should be shifted to the restoration of elephant corridors and educating farmers. Farmers should be encouraged to cultivate crops that do not attract wild animals, including elephants. This initiative along with corridor restoration would go a long way," said a wildlife activist.

Elephants are drawn to crops such as maize, sugarcane, banana, etc. Experts say efforts should be taken to rope in NGOs to conduct sensitisation programmes to ensure that cropping patterns are changed in sensitive areas.

They also underline that monoculture plantations in many areas in the Western Ghat should be extracted. They opine that while forests with diverse native tree species lead to streams full of water throughout the year, areas with monoculture plantations impact this water availability.

"Many protected areas in the Western Ghats have monoculture plantations. These are non-native tree species that are also water guzzlers such as Nilgiri, Acacia, etc. Most of the streams in these areas have dried due to such mindless plantation activities taken up by Karnataka Forest Department. The focus should be on the extraction of monoculture plantations and making such areas biodiversity-rich by bringing in native tree species. Such measures will improve water availability with the least interference," said a conservationist.

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Mysore Road, a vital arterial stretch connecting Bengaluru to the cultural hub of Mysuru, is witnessing a surge in demand as a preferred destination for property buyers.
With its strategic location, improving infrastructure, and attractive real estate options, this corridor has become a hotspot for both investors and end-users.

Infrastructure and connectivity

Sources said that Mysore Road's transformation is driven by robust infrastructure development. The completion of the six-lane Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway has significantly reduced travel time, making it an attractive choice for those seeking well-connected residential areas. "With the expressway in place, I can now

This area offers apartments, villas, and plots for all

reach Bengaluru city in under an hour. This connectivity is a game-changer for people like me who want to escape the hustle of the city but still remain close to it," said Anil Kumar, a property buyer.

Affordable yet promising

Compared to the skyrocketing property prices in central Bengaluru, Mysore Road offers a more affordable range of options, catering to middle-income and first-time homebuyers. Projects along this stretch provide a mix of budget apartments, luxury villas, and plots, ensuring something for everyone. Prashanth Rao, a young entrepreneur said, "The property prices here are still significantly reasonable, and the appreciation potential is high. It's a win-win for buyers who are looking for a home and an investment."

–Prakash VL

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Sandalwood farms: Urbanites' new gold

Urban Bengalureans are increasingly investing in sandalwood farms, driven by the dual allure of financial returns and reconnecting with nature. Sandalwood, often referred to as "liquid gold," is prized for its high market value and cultural significance. With assured buyback offers from authorised sellers, these farms are being seen as a lucrative long-term investment. "I've always wanted to own land and do something sustainable. Sandalwood farming checked all the boxes, it's profitable, deeply rooted in our heritage," says Ravi Kumar, an IT professional turned agro-enthusiast.

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PARLOUR PERIL

Rare hidden health risk of having your hair washed

Going to the hairdresser is often considered a relaxing, pampering experience, but a rare condition known as beauty parlour stroke syndrome (BPSS) can, for a small number of people, make a shampoo at the hairdresser's a serious health threat.

How could a trip to the hairdresser turn into a health emergency? Research suggests that sitting at an awkward angle at the backwash basins used for hair washing in many salons can cause neck pain, injury and – on very rare occasions – even a life-threatening stroke.

BPSS was first identified in 1993 by American Neurologist, Michael Weintraub, who found that some of his patients had developed severe stroke-related symptoms after having their hair shampooed during a visit to a hairdresser.

A stroke is a brain attack caused by a sudden reduction in blood flow to the brain. It's usually caused by a blockage from a blood clot – or the tearing and bursting of a major blood vessel in the brain – leading to a reduction of oxygen, glucose and nutrients that damages and kills brain cells.

During the shampooing process, clients are usually asked to sit down and hang their head back over the edge of the washbasin. Research suggests that overextending the head and neck over the rigid rim of the sink is the primary cause of BPSS.

The unusual neck position, neck rotation or sudden jerking movements during vigorous shampooing can cause the backbones of the higher spinal column around the neck area to push against one of the major blood vessels that supply blood to the back and bottom of the brain. Some cases of BPSS have also been caused by bone spurs – tiny bone fragments from lumps on the spine – that can either compress or tear the artery next to them.

Strokes are often associated with older people and those with medical issues such as high blood pressure, diabetes or high cholesterol – but young, healthy people can have strokes too. While research suggests BPSS is most likely to occur in women over 50 – and previous history of narrowing or thinning of blood vessels and arthritis of the spinal column in the neck are particular risk factors – it could happen to anyone regardless of age or medical history.

A 2016 Swiss study found only ten instances of BPSS during 2002-2013 so, although BPSS is much rarer than conventional stroke, it's still important to be aware of the symptoms. So, what should you look out for?

Signs of BPSS include headache, lightheadedness, dizziness, blurred or narrowed vision, nausea, vomiting, pain in the neck and some paralysis on one side of the body – some patients also report a near loss of consciousness. Studies suggest that these symptoms may be delayed, making it difficult for doctors to diagnose BPSS rather than a conventional stroke.

Precautions

If you're worried about BPSS or experience pain and discomfort when using a backwash sink, ask to lean forward over the sink rather than extending your head backwards over the rim of the basin. If it is not possible to avoid a backwash at the salon, ask for neck support during hair washing.

The speed at which the hair is washed, how long it takes and any force or jerking movement to the head and neck while washing all contribute to the risk. Request a gentle wash, try not to stay in position at the backwash longer than you have to and inform your hairdresser if you experience any discomfort during washing.

Hairdresser shampooing is a generally safe and enjoyable activity for most people. For the most part, going to the hairdresser is important for mental health, self-esteem and confidence. So let's not throw in the hair towel just yet – use it as a neck support while we're being pampered instead.

(By Maria Ashioti, University of Westminster, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Immune system changes linked to schizophrenia: Study

A team of Singaporean researchers have identified that changes in the immune system are linked to schizophrenia, and potential resistance to treatments.

The reasons behind schizophrenia -- a psychotic disorder affecting around 24 million people worldwide and 1 in 116 individuals in Singapore – continue to be unknown.

The study, published in the journal Brain, Behaviour and Immunity, adds to a growing body of research suggesting that immune system dysregulation may be behind the development of the mental disorder.

Moreover, not all patients with schizophrenia respond to standard antipsychotic drugs. Around one in three individuals worldwide diagnosed with schizophrenia are treatment-resistant.

This means they do not achieve remission of symptoms, such as hallucinations and delusions, despite treatment.

Using changes in immune cell populations the team from Singapore's National Healthcare Group (NHG) and Agency for Science, Technology, and Research (A*STAR) predicted potential treatment resistance to help initiate the most appropriate treatment sooner.

"Our goal was to identify immune cell changes that could potentially be used to predict treatment resistance, allowing for earlier and more targeted interventions such as initiating clozapine treatment sooner for better clinical outcomes," said Dr. Li Yanhui, lead author, NHG Psychiatry Resident at NHG. Clozapine is currently the only psychiatric medicine indicated for treating treatment-resistant schizophrenia.

For the study, the team analysed blood samples of 196 healthy participants and individuals with schizophrenia with varying degrees of treatment resistance.

They identified and compared 66 immune cell populations in the blood of 147 people with schizophrenia and 49 healthy individuals to explore the immune cell populations associated with the disorder and treatment resistance.

The results showed significant differences in certain immune cell populations between healthy individuals and people with schizophrenia.

Further, those changes in immune cell populations also correlate with how resistant a patient with schizophrenia might be to treatment.

The findings offer hope for early identification of patients likely to be treatment-resistant. It will also enable clinicians to select more effective treatment strategies to achieve better outcomes. —IANS

All you need to know about...

Love symbols

Origin
Some love symbols make it effortless for anyone to express this universal feeling. Here is a look at how some of these originated:

Roses
Often exchanged among lovers, the rose is the ultimate sign of passion. The origin of the rose as a love symbol dates back to Greek and Roman times. In Greek mythology, Aphrodite, the goddess of love, is associated with the creation of the rose, which she created from her love and tears for her lover Adonis.

The Heart Shape
The origin of the heart shape, which is literally synonymous with love, is unclear. According to one legend, it was inspired by the seeds of the plant silphium, which is now extinct. Additionally, artistic depictions from the Indus Valley civilisation feature pendant designs shaped like Peepal leaves, which resemble the heart shape.

Cupid and His Bow
Cupid strikes, but do we know why? As the Roman god of love, Cupid is said to shoot arrows at two people, filling them with uncontrollable love for each other. Playful and mischievous, Cupid embodies the magic of romantic connection.

Yin and Yang
Love is crazy, but love that stands the test of time requires balance. This ancient Chinese symbol represents the harmony between opposites. In love, the complementary forces of Yin (feminine) and Yang (masculine) combine to create a unified and enduring whole.

Love Knots
Love knots originate from Celtic and Nordic cultures, symbolising the unbreakable bond of love between two people. Often featured in pendants and other jewellery, this ancient love symbol continues to hold significance in modern times. —Femina

Kanakapura Road: B'luru's new address for homebuyers

Kanakapura Road is fast emerging as a preferred destination for property buyers. Known for its lush greenery, excellent connectivity, and growing infrastructure, the area offers a perfect blend of urban conveniences and natural serenity. The extension of the Namma Metro Green Line to Anjanapura and the proposed metro expansion to Kanakapura have played a crucial role in drawing attention to this once-sleepy town. The Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) and the Peripheral Ring Road project further enhance connectivity, making Kanakapura a viable option for both commuters and investors.

Why buyers are choosing Kanakapura?

Kanakapura offers affordable property prices compared to Bengaluru's central zones, attracting young families, retirees, and investors alike. Gated communities, villa projects, and plotted developments are growing in popularity in the region, supported by the promise of high appreciation rates. "I work in Electronics City, and Kanakapura provides me with the perfect balance. The commute is manageable, and I love the tranquillity. It's the perfect place to raise a family. Another draw for buyers is Kanakapura's scenic charm, surrounded by numerous tourist places and attractions like Mekedatu, Chunchi Falls, and the revered Pyramid Valley. These natural wonders have added an aspirational value to owning a home here. I wanted a place where I could be close to nature. Actually. Kanakapura feels like a retreat without being too far from the city," said Priya Rao, a buyer.

Affordable prices attract young farmers, retirees and investors

"Initially, I was worried about schools for my children, but now there are several reputed options nearby. The upcoming malls and supermarkets are an added advantage. Developers are increasingly launching projects in Kanakapura, with a focus on sustainability and community living. The rising demand for plotted developments and farmhouses also reflects the shifting preferences of urban dwellers looking for space and privacy. Kanakapura offers tremendous potential for appreciation. With improving infrastructure and metro connectivity, it's becoming the go-to destination for mid-segment and luxury buyers," said Shruthi K, a buyer.

Future of Kanakapura

Raghu Gowda, a property dealer said, "Kanakapura's transformation from a quiet town into a thriving real estate hub highlights Bengaluru's growing appetite for suburbs offering affordability and quality of life. With its proximity to the city, natural beauty, and promising infrastructure, Kanakapura is set to remain a top choice for property buyers in the years to come."

–Prakash VL

Turn vacant homes into income

Today, homeowners are exploring innovative ways to leverage their properties for additional income. One such trend gaining momentum is renting out homes for weekend aways. By transforming your vacant property into a vacation home, you not only unlock a new stream of revenue but also provide travellers with unique and memorable lodging experiences.

Maximise income potential

Renting out your home as a vacation home allows you to generate substantial income. Sohail Mirchandani, chief operating officer and co-founder of a luxury rental living venture shares, "Homeowners can capitalise on the growing demand for unique and personalised accommodation options, especially in popular tourist destinations or areas with high foot traffic."

Flexibility and control

Sumedha Joshi, owner of a vacation home mentions, "This arrangement provides more flexibility to utilise the property for personal use and decide when to rent it based on your schedules."

–Times Property

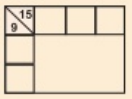
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

At 1:30, what is the clockwise direction angle of the hour hand to the minute hand to the nearest hundredth of a second?

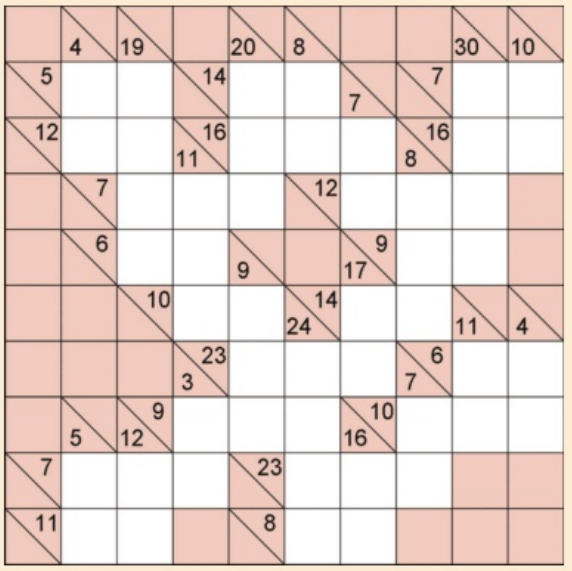
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

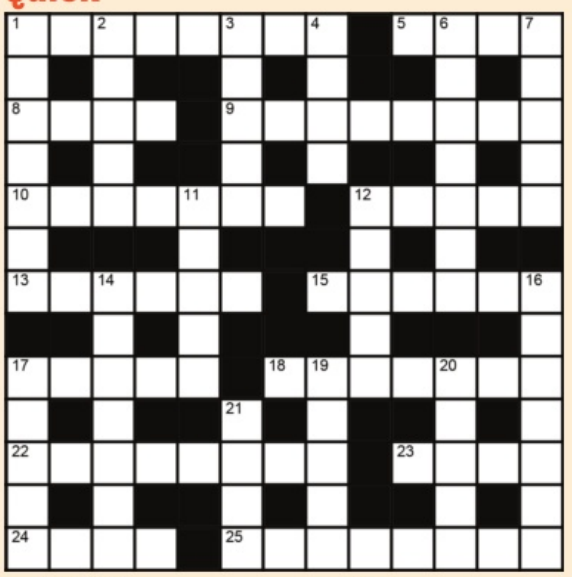


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Until now (8)
5 Amitabh Bachchan of course (3,1)
8 Infrequent (4)
9 Envisaged (8)
10 Chirp (7)
12 Most commonly used liquid measure (5)
13 Bangalore's favourite beverage (6)
15 A hanging ornament (6)
17 Foam (5)
18 Unstable (7)
22 Fearful (8)
23 Shield or heraldic border (4)
24 Physics unit (4)
25 ___ ____ the law / formulated a rule? (4,4)

DOWN

1 Religious outcast (7)
2 Japanese gateway (5)
3 European river (5)
4 Mr Abdullah of J&K (4)
6 Sets fire to (7)
7 Move very slightly (5)
11 Pearly whites (5)
12 Sprang (5)
14 Male servant (7)
16 Reading desk (7)
17 Ordained (5)
19 Nigri for one, Maki for another (5)
20 Trunk (5)
21 Carbonized fuel (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS T

STTSPXVGRXE WUGYDC FRXM XMSCD UOPDUWE SG XMD WUGYD JOSSP.

Linemaro

A life without you would be like a computer without an OS

Mindchow

Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted

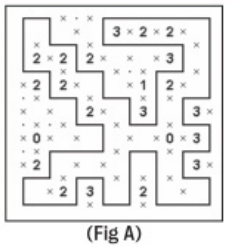
Joke of the day

Why did 10 die? Because he was in the middle of 9/11

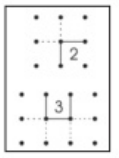
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



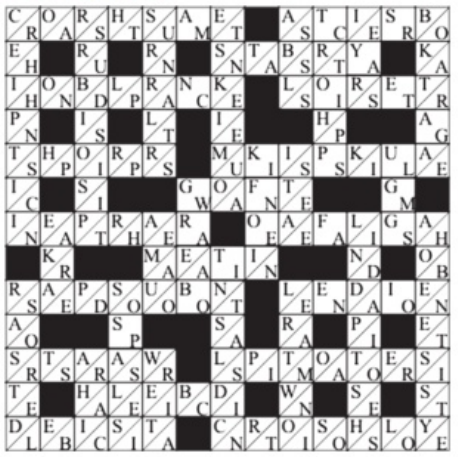
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

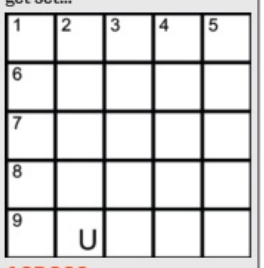
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

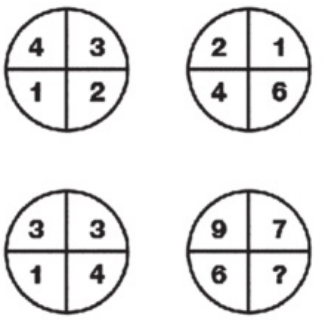
1 Caret; 6 Medea;
7 Tails; 8 Ree ie;
9 Li bud

DOWN

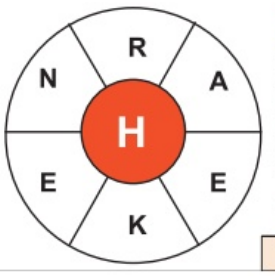
1 Cel be; 2 A due l;
3 Titre; 4 Melia (1-4);
5 Dears

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

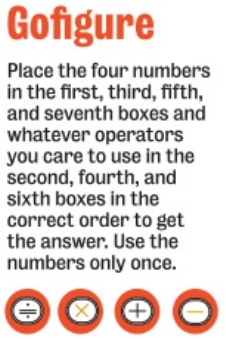
SudokuChallenge

		8		5	9			
	2	4					5	
				3	6		2	1
5		2						
9		6		8		2		4
						9		5
8	1		3	6				
	5					6	7	
			9	7		4		

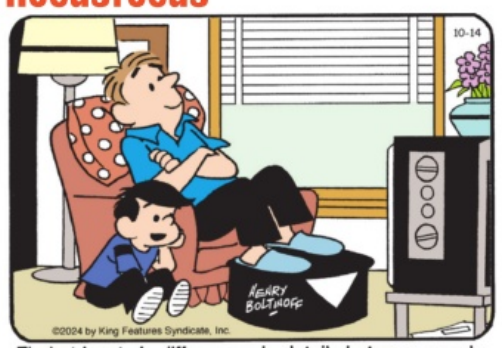
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

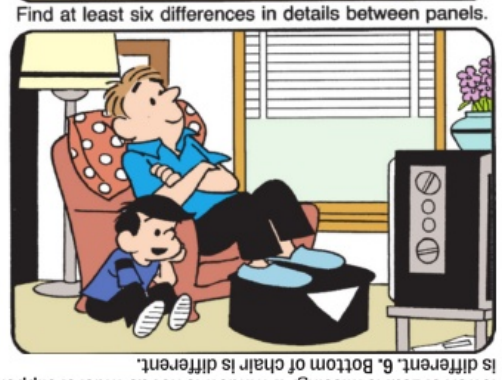
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



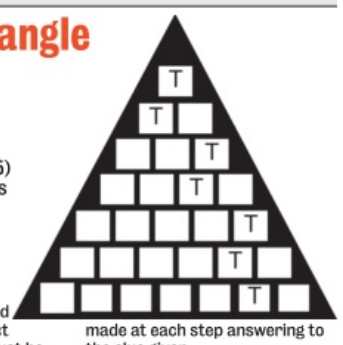
Differences: 1. Dial is turned. 2. Stripe on lampshade is lower. 3. Leaf is missing. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. Slipper is different. 6. Bottom of chair is different.

Riddler

What connects the following four words?
Page, Ferry, Waters & Nicks

Alpha triangle

1 20th letter
2 Infinitive word
3 Granola grain
4 Road runner
5 Concerning
6 German subs (1-5)
7 Scores more runs

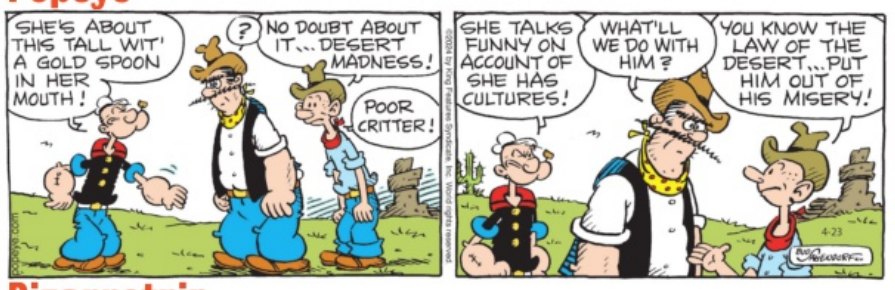


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


SHE'S ABOUT THIS TALL WIT' A GOLD SPOON IN HER MOUTH!
?
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... DESERT MADNESS!
POOR CRITTER!
SHE TALKS FUNNY ON ACCOUNT OF SHE HAS CULTURES!
WHAT'LL WE DO WITH HIM?
YOU KNOW THE LAW OF THE DESERT...PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

I JUST LOVE HOW COLORFUL THE LEAVES LOOK!
I SO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS EVERY YEAR!
I'M DEFINITELY STARTING TO PICK UP A PATTERN HERE MYSELF...
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

LOUIE! WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE!?! EVERYONE ELSE FLEW SOUTH WEEKS AGO!
WHOOPS.
I FORGOT TO PUT THAT ON MY "TO-DO" LIST.
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You are blessed by your elders today; your confidence will grow, and your work efficiency will increase. You'll have the opportunity to start new innovations in your business. Smart gains may follow after a small investment. Your rivals and opponents are now under control. You may also help a needy person financially, which will boost your reputation. Additionally, you may bring creative items to decorate your home.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today brings a mixed vibe. You may be busy with kids and expect a short trip related to their academics. You may also enjoy romantic moments, and couples may hear good news about childbirth. You might also plan an outing with family or friends. Those in jobs may consider higher education to increase their skill set.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today might feel disappointing, as impatience could make it hard for you to focus on your goals. It is advised that you postpone investments in fixed assets for now. It's important to take care of your parents' health today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel energetic and courageous today. You might purchase important household items for your home or office. Your inner strength will help you complete projects ahead of schedule. Disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved. There might also be short work-related trips that help you expand your network.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is favourable for you. You'll have better control over your expenditures, which may increase your savings. You'll be busy at home and might buy some artefacts for your space. You may also plan to renovate your office. The family environment will be joyful, and lovebirds may consider marriage. Singles may meet their soulmate, and kids will perform well.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Things are under control today, and you'll feel energised and confident. You may find new paths that lead to success at work. Your family business could reach new heights, and chronic illnesses are likely to be cured. You may also plan an overseas trip.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel a bit dull today, which could make you upset and impatient. Health-related issues may arise, so avoid rushing while driving or going on adventurous tours. Watch out for hidden enemies and avoid unnecessary arguments, as there may be some conspiracies around you.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today looks promising for your professional life. You may become passionate about your work, leading to mental fatigue. As a result, you might miss social or family gatherings. Your spouse will help you maintain domestic harmony. Lovebirds may take important decisions regarding marriage. Job seekers may receive good news about a suitable position through friends.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You are blessed by the moon today; you'll feel happy. You may be busy at work. Your network will grow, and with the blessings of elders, you'll implement new plans for success. You may also visit close relatives or plan a party with friends.

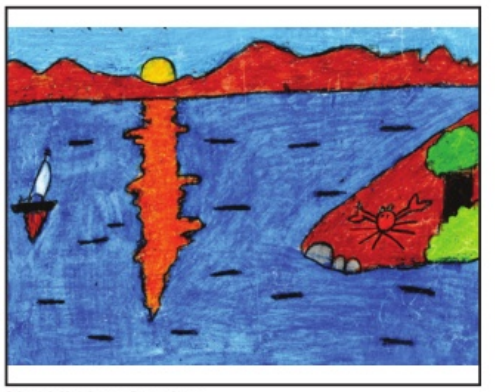
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel emotionally sensitive and a bit dull today. Health issues might arise, and it's advised to avoid rush driving. It is advised that you be vigilant about potential hidden enemies, as you might be a victim of conspiracy. Lovebirds should stay patient and avoid arguments over trivial matters.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may engage in self-analysis, which will help you identify mistakes and boost confidence at work. Disputes in partnerships are likely to be resolved, and warmth in relationships with your spouse may improve. Students may make quick decisions about their careers, and singles may find a good match.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
With the blessing of the moon, happiness will surround you today. Projects that were previously stalled will now get back on track. Your relationship with your spouse will strengthen, and you'll perform well at work. Singles may meet their soulmate, and lovebirds might decide to take their relationship to the next level. Job seekers may also find good opportunities.

KIDZONE

R Mugdha Raj, Bengaluru



Advaith Krishnan, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
The formula for the angle between hour hand and minute hand is 30°(hours) – 5.5°(minutes)
30°1 – 5.5°30 = -135; Angle is 135°

STRIKE OUT

C	O	S	T	U	M	E		A	C	E	R	B		
H		U		R		S	A	B	R	A		A		
I	N	B	L	A	C	K		S	O	R	E	R		
P		S		L		I		P		G				
S	H	I	P	S		M	I	S	S	I	L	E		
T	W	I	T	T	E	R		L	I	T	R	E		
		E		I		N		R		I		G		
R	A	R	E		I	M	A	G	I	N	E	D		
E		O		H		M		G		U				
H	I	T	H	E	R	T	O		B	I	G	B		
D	Y	N	E		L	A	I	D	D	O	W	N		

QUICK

D	E	I	S	T		C	R	O	S	S	L	Y		
E		A	L	I	B	I		N		E		T		
S	T	R	A	W		L	I	T	O	T	E	S		
A		P		A		A	I			E				
R	E	D	O	U	B	T		E	N	D	O	N		
K		M	A	I	N			N		O				
N	E	T	H	E	R		O	A	F	I	S	H		
I		S		G	O	N	E			M				
S	H	I	P	S		M	I	S	S	I	L	E		
P		S		L		I		P		G				
H		U		R		S	A	B	R	A		A		
C	O	S	T	U	M	E		A	C	E	R	B		

FAST FIVE

C	A	T	E	R
E	D	E	M	A
L	I	T	A	S
E	E	R	I	E
B	U	I	L	D

RIDDLER
They are all surnames of rock stars

BULL'S EYE
hank, hanker, hare, hark, hear, HEARKEN, here, khan, rhea

QUOTE UNCODE
Opportunity dances with those already on the dance floor.

MENSA PUZZLE
12. Add together numbers in corresponding segments of the upper two and lower left circles to give the values in corresponding segments of the lower right circle.

SUDOKU

2	6	3	9	7	5	4	1	8
4	5	9	1	2	8	6	7	3
8	1	7	3	6	4	5	9	2
3	8	1	7	4	2	9	6	5
9	7	6	5	8	1	2	3	4
5	4	2	6	9	3	1	8	7
6	2	4	8	1	7	3	5	9
7	9	5	4	3	6	8	2	1
1	3	8	2	5	9	7	4	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, To, Oat, Auto, About, U-boats, Outbats.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 – 4 + 7 – 6 = 3
Medium
3 x 5 – 3 x 3 = 36
Hard
6 / 6 + 3 + 9 = 13

LOOP

KAKURO

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A visual treat without much depth

SANJU WEDS GEETHA 2

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Nagashekar
- **ACTORS** Srinagara Kitty, Rachita Ram, Sadhu Kokila, Rangayana Raghu Sampath Raj, Tabala Nani
- **Duration** 122 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

The much-awaited second part of the Nagasekhar directorial hit the screens a week later than planned. It was supposed to release on January 10 but was rescheduled to January 17 due to some legal issues. Nagasekhar has given importance to music, songs, cinematography, and love in the movie.

The locations in Karnataka and Switzerland where the movie was shot are a visual treat. However, the director has failed to keep the screenplay crisp and convincing. The plot of the movie is very weak and even the main theme of how the hero falls in love with the heroine is unconvincing. (The woman, born into an elite family, meets the hero, who sells saris, on the way to a pageant. The hero presents the heroine a sari and asks her to wear it in the pageant. Heroine wears it and wins the first prize and falls in love with the hero).

A movie needs supporting characters but those characters should not become a burden for the audiences to cope with. It would have been a great relief for the audiences if the director had cut the runtime of the movie by 10 or 15 minutes by removing some comedy scenes that just have absurd dialogues.

The movie begins with Geetha (Rachita Ram) asking her husband Sanju (Srinagar Kitty), who is busy participating in a textile exhibition in Hyderabad, to make arrangements to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary. Later, the director, with a flashback, narrates how Geetha, the daughter of a businessman (Sampath Raj) falls in love with Sanju, a sari seller from Sidlaghatta. As is expected, Geetha's father asks her to forget Sanju but she insists on marrying her lover. Later, Geetha is diagnosed with lung cancer. What happens to Geetha and Sanju is what Sanju Weds Geetha 2 is all about.

The movie highlights the plight of silk weavers. Music by Sridhar Sambhram is melodious. Cinematographer Satya Hegde has done a commendable job behind the camera. As far as the performances of actors are concerned, Srinagar Kitty has acted well. He is convincing as a concerned lover. Rachita Ram looks good. Sampath Raj, Chetan Chandra and Ragini Dwivedi provide good support. It is worth a watch for those who crave romantic films.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

45 on August 15

The much-hyped and awaited pan-Indian movie 45 is set to arrive in theatres on August 15. A 3D motion poster was screened at a mega event on January 14. The poster, created by Prajwal Urs, showcases Dr Shivarajkumr riding a scooter, firing at opponents with a gun. It then features the lead actors' photos and the date of release. The poster, considered as the first-of-its-kind in Sandalwood, has received good response from movie buffs.

Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy, Venkat Narayan of KVN Productions, former MLA Ramachandra Gowda, Dr Sanjay Gowda, Shyam Chabria of Anand Audio, producer K Manju, and director Indrajit Lankesh were present on the occasion. Producer Ramesh Reddy's son Suraj's birthday was celebrated on the occasion.

"It is important for a movie to have good content, but it is destiny that decides on the outcome. If the curiosity among the movie buffs is anything to go by, it seems 45 is set to become a big hit at the box office. I invested money as per the content of the movie without compromising on quality," said producer Reddy.

Music director Arjun Janya debuts as a director in Sandalwood with 45. "A major portion of the post-production works is over. VFX work is in progress. We have engaged MARZ of Canada to do the VFX for this movie. I expect it to be completed by May. I am grateful to the producer for giving me an opportunity to direct this movie. I thank Dr Shivarajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and Raj B Shetty for acting in this movie," said Arjun Janya.

Real Star Upendra said the motion poster launch event looks like a success meet of the movie. "I appreciate the combination of producer Ramesh Reddy and director Arjun Janya. I am waiting for Dr Shivarajkumar to return to Bengaluru," said Upendra.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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